

**USDA Service Center
Richland County FSA
2745 West Holly
Sidney, MT 59270**

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FSA Fax 406-433-4673
NRCS Fax 406-433-7351
MT FSA Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

Office Hours:
M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM

County Committee Members

**Robert Albin—Chairman
Larry Vaira – Vice Chair
Orion Sundheim – Member
Connie Iversen – Advisor**

FSA Office Personnel

**Nancy Heins, CED-Programs
Patti Boyer, PT
Tammy Lake, PT
Kathy Obergfell, PT
Marilyn Pust, PT
Jamie Zumbuhl, PT
Charlene Kaercher, TO
Stacey Buckley, FLM-Loans
Pat Turner, FLO
Patti McGinnis, FLPT
Bruce Johnson, FLOT
Sarah Carpender, FLOT**

NRCS Office Personnel

**Jamie Selting, District Con.
Dave Haverkamp, Soil Con.
Channon Bighorn, Soil Con.
Joe Lyseng, Soil Con.
Kraig Paulson, Pheasants
Forever and Volunteer**

Conservation District

Julie Goss, Administrator



Richland County October 2007

Livestock Disaster Programs Underway

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007.

These two disaster programs provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths, feed losses, and additional feed costs caused by natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible for LIP and LCP, an owner or contract grower's livestock must have been located in a county or contiguous county designated a natural disaster by the President or declared by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Livestock producers incurring livestock losses in 2005 or 2006 calendar years may only select one year in which to receive assistance.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

To be eligible for LIP, the owner's livestock must have:

- Died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event after Jan. 1, 2005 and before Feb. 28, 2007; must have died no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable disaster period (s) but before Feb. 28, 2007; and in the calendar year for which benefits are requested.
- Been maintained for a commercial farming operation on the day they died; and
- not been produced for reasons other than commercial farming. This includes wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Applications should submit form FSA-900 to the local office. The producer should include a copy of the grower contract if they are a contract grower and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and location of the livestock at the time of death. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may be documents by purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan papers and any other documents verifying the death of the livestock.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster periods (s); and
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feed, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event (s) during the applicable disaster period (s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

To apply, producers must complete form FSA-901 at their local office; bring adequate proof that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock and occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during an eligible disaster period (s) in the calendar year for which the benefits are being requested.

For detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

NAP Final Date for Honey Producers

The final date for honey producers to file a 2007 NAP Application for Payment is



December 1, 2007 or within 30 days of the placement of hives. There are no late-filed provisions for the Application for Payment. A complete application for payment includes acceptable verifiable production evidence. If the production is not sold by January 2, 2008, a measurement service can be requested to verify the production.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Begins October 15

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.



CRP Payments Begin In October

FSA will begin issuing Conservation Reserve Program payments to eligible producers in October, 2007. In Montana, FSA will issue more than \$116.9 million dollars to eligible CRP participants. The payments are annual rental payments earned on 3,480,849 acres enrolled in CRP in Montana.

OVERVIEW

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, annual rental payments and cost-share assistance can be received to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible farmland.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

BENEFITS

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the Nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a

major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.



Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

**USDA SERVICE CENTER-Farm
Service Agency
RICHLAND COUNTY OFFICE
2745 West Holly Street
SIDNEY, MT 59270**

**PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bozeman, MT 59717
PERMIT NO. 54**

Official Business

Important Dates to Remember

**October – CRP Payments begin
October 8- Office Closed in Honor of Columbus Day
October 9- Begin date for Final DCP payments
October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP Managed Haying
October 15 – CDP Signup Begins, appointments start October 17, training in Billings 15-16
November 1- Regular COC Meeting
November 2 – Final date for COC ballots to be mailed to producers
November 12- Office Closed in Honor of Veteran's Day
November 12- Deadline for grazing on CRP Managed Grazing
November 22- Office Closed to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey
December 3 – COC ballots must be returned by close of business
December 6- Regular COC Meeting; count election ballots**



Container Approved for Honey

Honey producers requesting marketing assistance loans may now pack their honey in approved five-gallon plastic containers. The containers must hold about 60 pounds of honey, have a tight fitting cover, have strong handles, and be lined with an FDA-approved low-density polyethylene liner.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed policies for implementing NAIS for protecting U.S. livestock and poultry from potentially devastating pests and diseases through an identification system that enabled faster response with more precision.

NAIS consists of three components: 1) premise registration, 2) animal identification, and 3) animal tracking. Premise registration is the foundation of the NAIS and is the first component to be implemented.

Premise registration is voluntary, free, quick, and does not commit producers to participate in the other components of NAIS. To find out how to register a premise, visit USDA's NAIS website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.